

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY COMMITTEE TO SEEK
REGIONAL REVIEW AND COMMENT AND PREPARE A PROPOSED REGIONAL POSITION
ON THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM'S
BLUE RIBBON FINANCE PANEL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) supports the expeditious attainment of the Chesapeake Bay Program's water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, COG has consistently advocated reliance on the cooperative approach to achieving those goals, an approach that was demonstrably effective prior to the signing of the Chesapeake 2000 (C2K) agreement in June 2000 and forms the heart of the water quality section of C2K; and

WHEREAS, COG demonstrated its early support for achieving water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River by the passage of Resolution R37-92 in 1992; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution R25-97, COG endorsed four basic principles for effectively achieving the Bay Program's goals, namely: (1) the value of relying on voluntary actions as opposed regulatory actions; (2) the importance of equity of effort; (3) the need for accurate, adequately documented scientific information; and (4) the critical value of local government voice; and

WHEREAS, COG recognizes that the cost of attaining these goals will require many billions of dollars and that much of the responsibility for program implementation will fall on local governments; and

WHEREAS, COG believes that the financial burden of program implementation should be equitably shared among the federal, state and local government levels; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution R39-03, COG committed to "explore other means of providing financial assistance to support local government programs and policies that implement watershed management measures to benefit the Bay and local water quality, including the development of a regional authority for the Chesapeake Bay region under federal law;" and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2003, the Chesapeake Executive Council adopted Directive No. 03-02 that called for establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Panel "... to consider funding sources to implement the tributary strategies basinwide and to make recommendations regarding other actions at the federal, state and local level ...;" and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel, Chaired by former Virginia Governor Gerald L. Baliles, issued its report on October 27, 2004 which called for the creation of a regional Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority "... that uses funding on a regional basis to address critical needs throughout the watershed ...;" and further makes twenty-two additional supplementary recommendations "... to help close the funding gap ...;" and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2005, the Chesapeake Executive Council directed the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals Staff Committee to convene a committee to provide a specific proposal, by July 1, 2005, for the establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. COG seeks comment from the COG membership on the report and recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel, thereby enabling consideration of a regional position for transmittal to the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council; and
2. COG directs the CBPC to receive member feedback and craft a proposed regional position for the Board's consideration not later than March 2005; and
3. COG directs the CBPC to communicate such approved regional position to the Chesapeake Executive Council to ensure that local government concerns are considered when decisions are made on how to proceed with the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendation for the creation of Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority.
